

1 June 1956

Executive Register
S-3380

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. Lee Chernes, Meeting with the DCI on 31 May 1956

1. Mr. Lee Chernes is Executive Director, Research Institute of America, and an official of the International Refugee Committee. He was chairman of the "Dunavan Emergency Commission" which IRC activated to focus attention upon communist defection campaigns. The meeting with DCI was arranged at Mr. Chernes's request to report on "redemption".

2. In line with his belief that emergency measures are needed to counter defection activities in the USA, Mr. Chernes reported that INC has set up a special 24-hour-a-day telephone service in the New York City area offering to counsel any refugees who fear repatriation activity. Mr. Chernes plans to extend this project into Connecticut with the cooperation of local police and civic groups.

3. Mr. Chernes reported great difficulty in soliciting funds for INC from private sources, due to public apathy and related to the growing debts. He advised that funds from projects under the State/U.S. Refugee Program do not cover INC countering the "redemption" campaign in the U.S.A. In response to an observation by the DCI, Mr. Chernes indicated that Tolstoy Foundation, like INC, may be confronted with the same problem: no established congregation of givers.

4. Mr. Chernes indicated hope for DCI interest in the following matters: (a) the entry into the USA of Stanislaw Niles, a former Polish Cultural Attaché who defected in Paris several years ago and, according to Mr. Chernes, is now top "redemption" target; (b) support for INC projects covering refugees in Vietnam, which are now under consideration in RGA and USIA; and (c) pressure upon Congress to obtain adoption of the President's recommended amendments to the McCarran-Walter Act.

5. The matters proposed by Mr. Chernes for the Director's attention, such as the funding for countering "redemption" from the U.S.A. and action in the [redacted] appear to require special staff study before any action is taken. Copies of this memorandum are therefore made available to the appropriate Clandestine Services elements and the Legislative Liaison Officer for consideration.

Distribution:

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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